Wayne, PA -- On Friday, February 2, Congressman Joe Sestak— a former Vice Admiral—attended the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania U.S. Service Academy Nomination Ceremony at the Mellon Hall of the Valley Forge Military Academy and College. Joe, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, presented the congressional nominations to each of the 43 students. This year, an invitation was extended to the Superintendents, Principals and Guidance Counselors from each of the nominee's high schools, as well as to the local and state elected officials from the municipalities and counties of our nominees.

"I would like to congratulate all of the students of their nomination to these distinguished academies," noted Joe. "Their nomination indicates that they are among the best and brightest in the Seventh District. Their selection is a testament to not only their exemplary qualities as students, but also to the parents, school districts, and communities that have provided the encouragement, guidance, and love to help them evolve into the fine men and women they are today.

"I graduated from the Naval Academy in 1974 and I know firsthand the hard work and dedication that goes not only into the nomination process, but also into the formal application process. I can truly say that it is well worth the time and effort. These institutions help turn our country's best and brightest into future leaders."

As one Academy's mission statement says, these outstanding U.S. Service Academies intend:

"…to develop midshipmen morally, mentally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor and loyalty in order to provide graduates who are dedicated to a career of naval service and have potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government."

The Nomination Process:

Joe is going to continue a nonpolitical nomination process to ensure the Seventh District is represented by the best and brightest candidates. Joe will have an advisory board and review

board process composed of academy graduates, service members, educators, business leaders, women and minority leaders and others to ensure the best across a diverse background are selected.

To be considered for an appointment to a service academy, an applicant must have a nomination from an authorized nominating source. Title 10 of the U.S. Code authorizes Members of Congress to make nominations.
Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law.

Applicants may apply for and receive nominations from both their United States Senators and from their Representative. Applicants may also apply to the Vice President of the United States who can nominate applicants at large. Applicants should apply to the service academy of their choice in the spring of their junior year in high school and request a nomination from the appropriate nomination source shortly thereafter.

Who is Eligible?

Each applicant for a nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1st of the year of admission to a service academy:

Age: Be at least 17-years-old, but not have passed the 22nd birthday.

Citizenship: Must be a U.S. citizen.

If there are any questions, please contact Joe's district office at 610-892-8623.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group

of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. Congress.

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